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Symposium on Worship Archive

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### Worship Renewal--What difference does it make?

Calvin Symposium on Worship: Word, Music, Vision, Action

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*Calvin Institute of Christian Worship*

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**B11 - Worship Renewal – What difference does it make?  
Symposium January, 2010  
Betty Grit, Manager, Worship Renewal Grants Program**

Congregational leaders who have led Worship Renewal Projects in the past will reflect on the impact that year has had in their own ministry and in the congregations they serve.

**FRIDAY -**

**Nancy Hall** – American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, CA

**Marc Nelesen** – Georgetown Christian Reformed Church, Hudsonville, MI

**Garland Pierce** – First American Methodist Episcopal Church: BETHEL, New York, NY

**James Ward** – New City Fellowship, Chattanooga, TN

**SATURDAY**

**Peter Hoytema** – Westmount Christian Reformed Church, Strathroy, ON

**Matthew Penning** – St Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, IA

**Sara Wenger Shenk** – The Table: An Emerging Mennonity Church, Harrisonburg, VA

**Kevin Twit** – Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), Nashville, TN

**What did I learn that encouraged me?**

**What new idea would I like to try when I get home?**

**How might a year long process of worship renewal impact my congregation and ministry?**

## **What is Worship Renewal?**

Worship renewal cannot be reduced to a formula or generated by a set of techniques. As you begin your planning, we invite you to prayerfully consider these dynamics and characteristics of worship renewal, which we continue to learn about from the work of congregations.

- Worship renewal cannot be produced or engineered by human ingenuity, but is a gift of God's Spirit. Renewal is a gift for which we pray, rather than an accomplishment we achieve.
- Worship renewal mines the riches of scripture and leads worshipers to deeper encounters with Christ and the gospel message.
- Worship renewal arises from, and leads to, the full, conscious, and active participation of all worshipers—young and old, the powerless and powerful, newcomers and lifelong worshipers.
- Worship renewal leads a congregation beyond itself to give itself away to minister to the needs of the local community and the world.
- Worship renewal happens best in healthy congregations, which are marked by honesty, integrity, unity, and pastoral concern for each worshiper.

## **Ten Core Convictions About Christian Worship**

1. A vivid awareness of the beauty, majesty, mystery and holiness of the triune God.
2. The full, conscious, active participation of all worshipers, in the context of a fully intergenerational community.
3. Deep engagement with Scripture
4. Joyful and solemn celebrations of baptism and the Lord's Supper, which focus squarely on the redemptive work of Jesus Christ in all of creation, and are deeply aware of how God's spirit works to nurture and strengthen faith through these celebrations.
5. Balanced approach to culture
6. Disciplined creativity in the arts
7. Collaboration with congregational ministries
8. Warm, Christ-centered hospitality for all people
9. Intentional integration between worship and all of life
10. Collaborative planning and evaluation

[www.calvin.edu/worship](http://www.calvin.edu/worship)

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